



AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATION (AED) - BLS

PURPOSE

To identify guidelines for the use of the AED for all patients one (1) year of age or older in cardiac arrest. The overall goal of the AED program is to provide for rapid defibrillation and transfer of patients to an ALS provider as quickly as possible.

FIELD ASSESSMENT/TREATMENT INDICATORS

All of the following criteria must be met prior to applying the AED machine:

1. Unresponsive, pulseless and apneic ("gasping" breaths).
2. One (1) year of age or older.
3. Have an apparent body temperature greater than 86 degrees F.

If patient meets the criteria per Protocol Reference #12010, Determination of Death, or Protocol Reference #12020, Withholding Resuscitation, AED application is not indicated.

PROCEDURE

1. Initiate immediate CPR.
2. Power on the AED.
3. Place appropriate pads according to manufacturer's guidelines. If the AED is equipped with a pediatric attenuator, it should be utilized for children between one (1) and nine (9) years of age. CPR is not to be interrupted except briefly for rhythm assessment.
4. Analyze rhythm.
 - a. If shocks are required, each shock should be immediately followed by two (2) minutes of CPR.
 - b. If additional shocks are not required:
 - i. If patient begins to move, maintain appropriate airway and oxygenation; obtain and monitor vital signs throughout care.

- ii. If patient remains unresponsive, pulseless and apneic, continue CPR for two (2) minutes and reanalyze.
5. Continue care as indicated by patient condition until ALS providers assume care or patient starts to move.
6. BLS agencies may only transfer care to a provider of equal or greater level. If a BLS transport agency is not an approved AED service provider, the AED personnel must accompany the patient with the appropriate equipment.

DOCUMENTATION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

1. BLS agencies shall complete an ICEMA approved patient care report form and data collection device per Protocol Reference #2010, Requirements for Patient Care Records.
2. PS-D agencies must provide documentation on ICEMA approved form.
3. Use of the AED shall be evaluated by the provider agency through their QI Plan. All data will be used to compile their annual report to ICEMA.

SPECIAL NOTE

AED units should be programmed to the latest 2010 AHA Guidelines for CPR and Emergency Cardiac Care standards for defibrillation for adults and pediatrics no later than December 31, 2011. Until personnel and equipment have been updated to the new guidelines, agencies should continue to perform CPR as trained and follow the AED prompts as directed.